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Remember debt to society, Bumi professionals told

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Middle-class Bumiputera professionals must realise their role and responsibility towards the progress of society and be indebted to society for their achievements.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today professionals could excel academically but it would be meaningless unless they realised that they were indebted to the society which had given them the opportunity to succeed.

"I am not saying all professionals are ungrateful or irresponsible. But you have to realise your role and if you are constantly aware of this I believe we will then succeed as a progressive nation."

He was speaking at a dinner organised by former Mara Junior Science College students' association, or Ansara. He also launched the Ansara Professional Group.

Also present were the Prime Minister's wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamad and Ansara president Mukhriz Mahathir.

Dr Mahathir said middle-class professionals played an integral part in determining and shaping a society's culture and progress.

He said a country would not be able to progress well if it lacked the middle-class.

"They are the thrust of a nation's progress as they have diverse specialties."

Dr Mahathir said while the Government had drawn up strategies like Vision 2020 which outlined the nation's objectives to become an industrialised nation by the year 2020, it would not be realised if the people, especially the middle-class professionals, did not strive for it.

"It is not going to fall into our lap unless we work hard for it," he said.

The Ansara Professional Group consists of members in the fields of medicine, engineering, mass communication, information technology, law and finance/economy.

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